

July 13, 2017

**SENATE BILL NO. 3006**  
**(First Reprint)**

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 3006 (First Reprint) without my approval.

Once again, instead of enacting Port Authority reforms that the Legislature demanded and New York has agreed to and passed, our politically motivated Legislature elected to waste the time and resources of the State's taxpayers on a political stunt that represents an abject disregard of its inherent duty to govern responsibly. This bill would prohibit any employee or officer of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey ("Port Authority") from providing assistance, aid, or even access to Port Authority facilities to federal officials for the purpose of enforcing Executive Order 13,780, Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry, issued by President Donald J. Trump on March 6, 2017 ("Executive Order 13,780"). In addition to revoking a preceding executive order from January 27, 2017, Executive Order 13,780 contains multiple directives to improve national security and increase public safety by minimizing the opportunities for would-be terrorists to exploit existing loopholes in federal immigration laws in order to commit terrorist attacks from within the United States.

The Port Authority is a product of a bi-state compact designed to facilitate the movement of people and goods for the economic benefit of the region. To this end, the Port Authority oversees the operation of the largest port facility on the East Coast and three international airports. Portions of these facilities are utilized by federal officials, who are tasked with enforcing federal immigration laws pursuant to Article I, Section 8 and Article II, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

Notwithstanding the fact that the federal courts were already actively reviewing aspects of Executive Order 13,780, the Legislature plunged the Port Authority into this politically-charged issue unnecessarily. The United States Supreme Court has pronounced that the vast majority of the directives within Executive Order 13,780 may be enforced. If this bill were to be enacted, Port Authority officials would be forced to make the untenable decision of whether or not to abide by the provisions of this bill and obstruct legitimate federal law enforcement actions. Advancing a bill that compels the Port Authority to violate state or federal law is the epitome of irresponsible governing.

Furthermore, the approach to regulating immigration embodied in this bill, whereby individual states may individually set immigration policies, is unwise and contrary to the United States Constitution. Such an approach would quickly turn the uniform federal immigration laws into a patchwork of individual state preferences.

The Legislature's disregard for the rule of law and the United States Constitution is a disservice to the citizens of New Jersey. If the Legislature had methodically considered the consequences of its actions instead of rushing this bill through the New Jersey Senate without reference, the Legislature may have realized the implications of its actions and elected to expend taxpayer monies and resources more wisely by passing the Port Authority reform measures that the State of New York already has enacted.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 3006 (First Reprint) without my approval.

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Respectfully,  
/s/ Chris Christie  
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Robert L. Garrenger  
Acting Chief Counsel to the Governor